

# INSTITUUT VIR EIETDSE GESKIEDENIS

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## Pretoria News

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## PRETORIA NEWS

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NEWSPAPERS

# SA is back in the world again

**T**onight it's Gloria Estefan and her Miami Sound Machine pumping out loud Latin rhythms at Loftus. This week it was the Crash Test Dummies wowing younger audiences with their distinctive sound. And octogenarian maestro Yehudi Menuhin landed in Cape Town for a tour (including Pretoria) with the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra.

Also on the cultural/entertainment front, megastar Bill Cosby arrived to meet our governing elite and those who could afford to meet him.

On a political note, another guest at the Robben Island bash was Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a whistlestop African tour. Also nibbling politely at the prison fare which cost some paying guests R125 000 a plate was UN secretary-general Kofi Annan, who was scheduled in a three-day stay to see President Mandela, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and other government leaders.

And let's not forget Princess Diana, here on a private visit to see her brother Earl Spencer in Cape Town. She had a 30-minute audience with Mr Mandela too.

It's been quite a week as far as visiting celebrities are concerned. And while all the embraces, handshakes and kisses are taking place, the Australian cricket team is out to prove at Centurion Park that it is presently the best. And a host of visiting athletes, including some of the biggest names in track and field, are showing off their abilities at Pilditch and other stadiums. Then there are the Rugby Sevens World Cup in Hong Kong, the Blue Bulls in Durban, and South Africans competing next week at the World Cross Country Championships in Turin.

So it goes on... South Africa's isolation dissolved fast in the sports arena, and in terms of visits involving Mr Mandela. But this week's flurry of activity on many fronts is spectacular evidence that this country has more than merely rejoined the community of nations - it has become one of the places to visit.

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